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Rural Information Center

No. 1

UPDATE

January 1988

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

TEST PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and Vermont are the six states selected to participate in the pilot project. In January, Jeri Marxman, Area Local Government Specialist, named as the Illinois State RIC Coordinator and Bob Czerniak, Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University, named as the New Mexico RIC Coordinator, each spent an orientation week at RIC. Iowa RIC Coordinator, Dan Otto, an Economic Development Specialist, and Tom Henderson, Extension Service, University of Missouri, are the Iowa and Missouri State Coordinators respectively. Barry Stryker, Extension Service and Betty Scannell, University of Vermont, Assistant Professor, will be sharing the coordination duties for Vermont; they will be visiting the Center in February. Georgia has not yet designated a RIC Coordinator.

RIC VISITORS

Roland Vautour, Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development, and LaVerne Ausman, Deputy Under Secretary, visited RIC in January. The staff provided an overview of RIC activities with CD-ROM and online database demonstrations. Both USDA officials are very supportive of the Center's activities and its mission.

RURAL LIBRARIANS MEET AT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

NAL staff met with the Rural Library Services Committee in San Antonio to discuss using RIC as a nucleus in establishing a national network of rural librarians similar to the Cooperative Extension Service State RIC Coordinator Network. The RLS Committee recommended that RIC request that each state library designate a staff member as the RIC State Rural Library Coordinator to work with RIC and the respective RIC State Extension Service Coordinator by assisting in the transfer of information and resource materials to the RIC Extension Coordinators.

Beth Walter Honadle, National Program Leader, Economic Development, USDA Extension Service, and Patricia John, Rural Information Center Coordinator, will be speaking at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in July. They will be addressing how rural libraries can play a role in community economic development by working in partnership with State and County Extension Services, Land Grant Universities, and the National Agricultural Library.

ANALYSIS OF RIC CLIENTS

AFFILIATION: State and County Extension Services accounted for



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40% of RIC requests while State and USDA officials and university clients each accounted for 11% of the requests. Community and rural development organization requests comprised 7%. The remaining 23% included requests from Federal officials, Congress, and libraries.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: RIC received questions from 25 states and the District of Columbia. Georgia and the District accounted for 35% of the questions while New York, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri and Vermont clients each accounted for 3%.

ANALYSIS OF RIC QUESTIONS

RURAL REVITALIZATION CRITICAL ISSUES: Sixty percent of all RIC questions falls into the Economic Development Viability Issue, 25% Concerns Local Government services, 12% Natural Resources and Quality of Life issue, and 3% addresses the Leadership and Community Change issue.

The RIC staff accessed nearly 50 unique databases, providing clients with online citations, full text records, and case study information relating to a broad range of questions illustrated on the attached page of subject searches. Key individual and organizational referrals are provided as appropriate.

MEET THE RIC SUBJECT SPECIALISTS

In October 1987, two information specialists joined RIC:

M. LOUISE ROGERS REYNNELLS was a Biological Science Technical Information Specialist with the Animal Welfare Information Center located at NAL, and a Staff Research Associate with the

California Cooperative Extension Service, University of California, Riverside. She has written articles and made conference presentations on poultry research and the poultry industry. Mrs. Reynnells was educated at California State Polytechnic University (B.S.).

PATRICIA LA CAILLE JOHN, a manager with NAL, was previously a social science library manager at the U.S. State Department and General Accounting Office. She was named the Coordinator in December. She has written library articles for professional journals and made presentations at library conferences. Mrs. John was educated at Pacific University, Oregon (B.A.), the University of Washington (M.L.), and the George Washington University (M.A.).

In January RIC added two part-time social science information specialists; both staff members are graduate research assistants working on their doctoral degrees at the University of Maryland:

ROBERT E. BRAY is a former Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Virginia Polytechnical Institute. Mr. Bray received his education from Elon College, North Carolina (B.A.), the University of Maryland (M.S.), and expects to receive his Ph.D. in 1988.

JOHN D. KANE worked as an international development consultant in Southeast Asia and has published articles on livestock development. Mr. Kane received his education at the U.S. Naval Academy (B.S.), University of Maryland (M.S.); he expects to receive his Ph.D. in rural community development in 1989.